REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-8 are cancelled without prejudice to future prosecution and claims 9-16 have been added. The office action states in paragraph 4: "An isolated DNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, or 17 encoding a human OB fusion protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 9, 12, 15, and 18, the vector and host cell comprising said DNA sequences are free of prior art."

Thus, the present amendment has amended to the claims to specifically what is stated is free of the art. Thus, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required by the filing of these papers, and to credit any overpayment to Perkins Coie's Deposit Account No. **50-0665**. If Applicants can do anything more to expedite this application, Applicants ask the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (310) 788-9900.

Respectfully submitted,

PERKINS COIE LLP

Dated: August 6, 2004

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